Minutes Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships (DCFBP) May 6, 2014

1-3 pm

Delaware National Guard/Armed Forces Reserve Command 250 Airport Road New Castle, DE 19720

Attendees: Jen Hill, Michael Beals (vice-chair), Flora McConkie, Raina Harper Allen, Kenny Foster.

Guests: Chaplain Susannah Tulloch, Delaware National Guard.

The meeting was called to order by Michael at approx. 1:35 pm.

Presentation on Delaware National Guard by Chaplain Tulloch: The Council was the first group to meet in the Command Group Conference Room at their new headquarters. Chaplain Tulloch is first female to serve as State Chaplain and the only female in the chaplain corps.

Each year the Delaware National Guard hosts two events, the National Guard Prayer Breakfast (on Fat Tuesday) and the Governor's Prayer Breakfast, in May.

The Guard handles domestic operations, natural disasters, major events (presidential inaugurals, Boston Marathon, etc.). The Reserves generally do not serve domestic missions. The Guard is represented on Delaware's VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster).

Roles of the Delaware National Guard Chaplaincy include: protecting First Amendment rights of service members; weekend retreats; confidential counseling on personal, spiritual, moral and ethical issues; resource center for assistance through military and civilian organizations; family support groups; liturgical and ceremonial support; pre-marital counseling; grief counseling; marital counseling; hospital visitation; etc.

They serve approx. 1000 individuals and families. About three-fourths of those they serve are Catholic and Protestant. The remaining fourth include Buddhist, Jewish, Mormon and Atheist, Agnostic and Pagan.

In Delaware, branches of military work well together. Dover Air Force Base is the only transfer point for the remains of military personnel in the United States. The base also provides support for injured service personnel.

The Delaware National Guard Base provides air lifts for medical evacuations, troop supply and transport, and warships. They have a training site in Bethany, and are dispatched internationally through Andrews Air Force Base.

Chaplain Tulloch suggested opportunity for faith groups to participate in their Partners in Care (PIC) Program – to provide assistance to service members and their families during and post deployment. Individuals and families in need are matched with faith communities for support and assistance. The Council could share this service opportunity with faith communities.

She recommended the Council meet with Colonel Dallas Wingate, Delaware National Guard Director of Military Support.

Update on Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop to be held Wednesday, June 18, 2014, from 11:30 am to 3 pm. Chaplain Tulloch to share information about the workshop with her contacts. Council asked to continue publicizing.

Update on recent meeting with Delaware Department of Health and Social Services: Doug, Jen, and Flora met with Secretary Landgraf and her leadership team (about 40 individuals) on Monday, May 5, 2014. DHSS has twelve divisions and is the largest state agency. Potential for partnership in several areas: I-ADAPT re-entry program; Stand-by-Me Financial Empowerment (re-entry, youth aging out of foster care); middle school programs for youth with disabilities; disaster preparedness; utilizing houses of worship for after-school recreation (joint use agreements between schools and houses of worship). Raina suggested the Council be briefed on the I-ADAPT program.

Other business: Kenny alerted Council to a disability workshop for houses of worship on May31st in Dover. He mentioned urgent need for respite care in New Castle County.

Next meeting. Tuesday, June 3, 2014, 1-3 pm, Delaware Emergency Management Agency.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 3:00 pm.

Submitted by Flora McConkie, DCFBP Secretary, June 2, 2014.